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STAN LEE PRESENTS
BUSTING LOOSE!
STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN
THIS IS THE CITADEL--
--HEAD-QUARTERS OF GENOSHAN STATE SECURITY.
ROGUE AND WOLVERINE HAVE JUST ARRIVED.
AS IS PLAIN TO SEE, THEY ARE NOT TERRIBLY PLEASED TO BE HERE.
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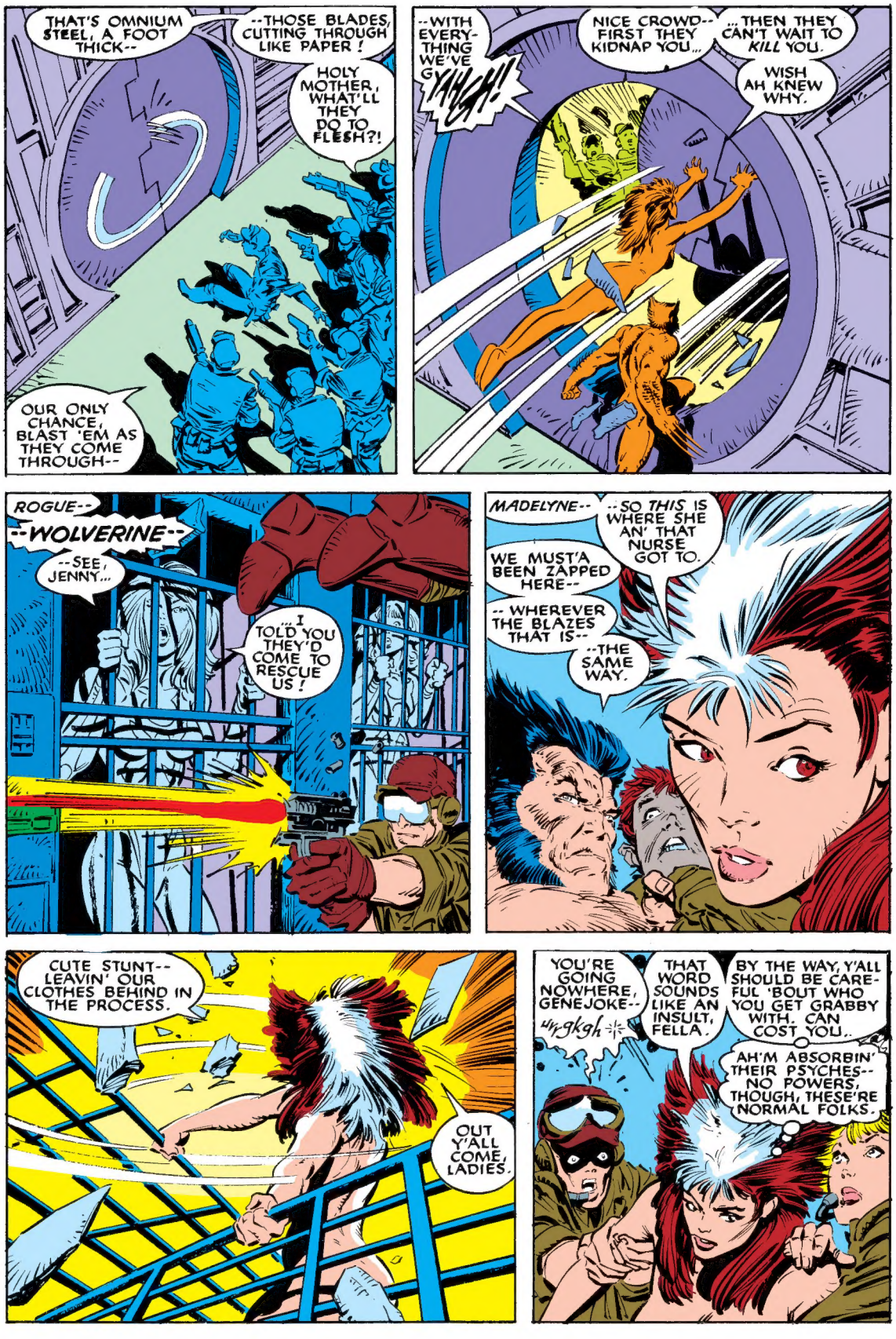
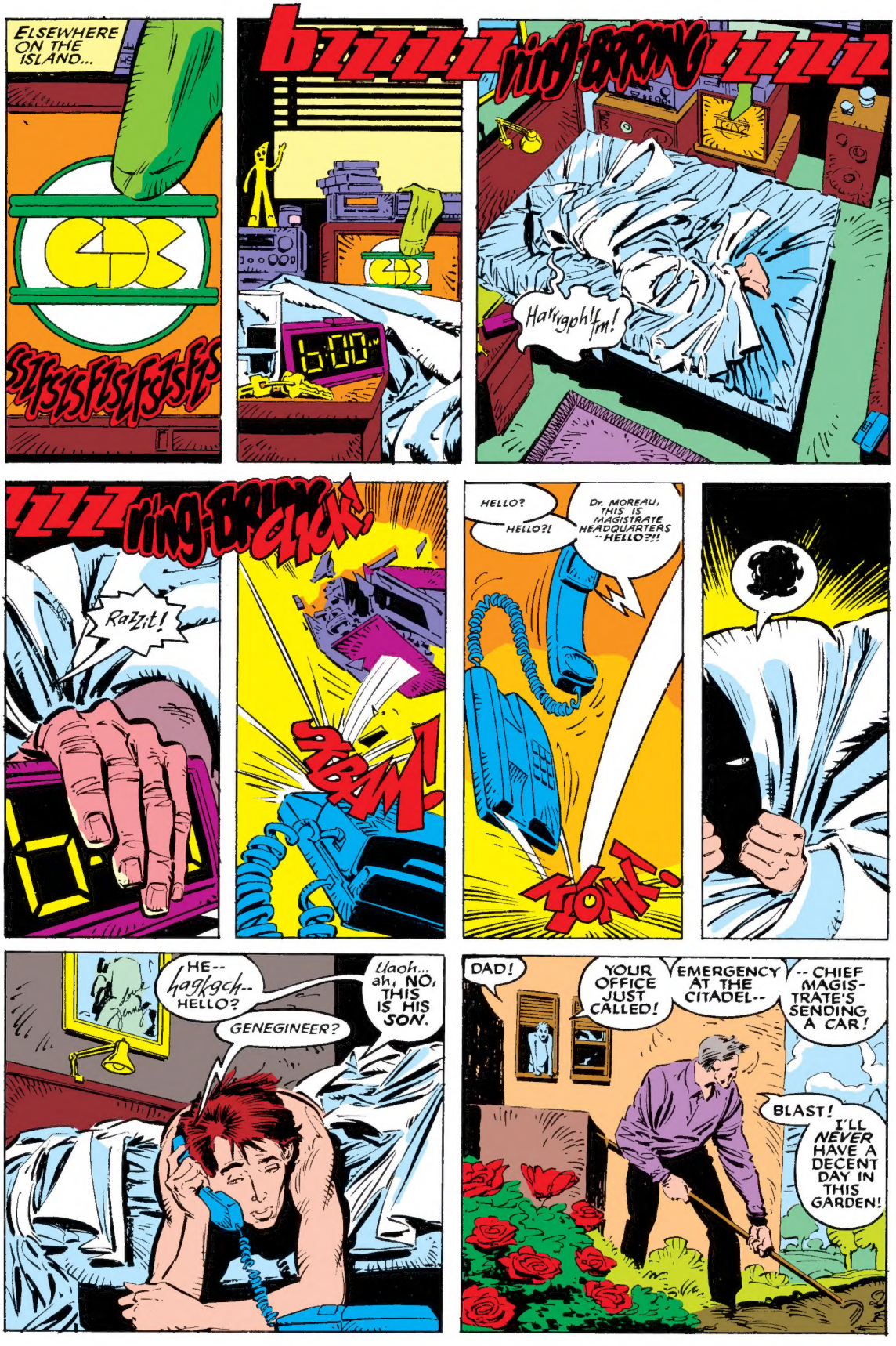
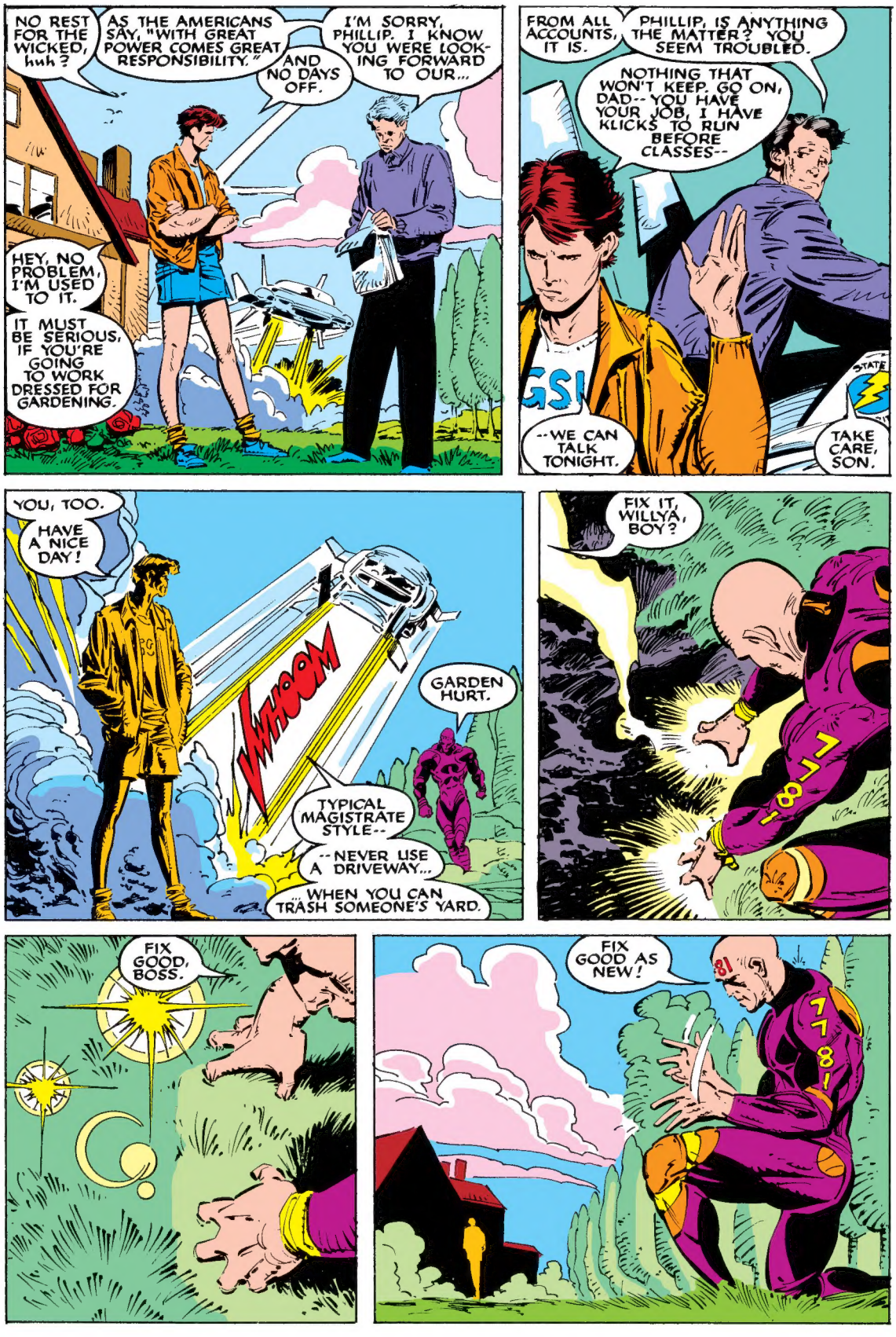
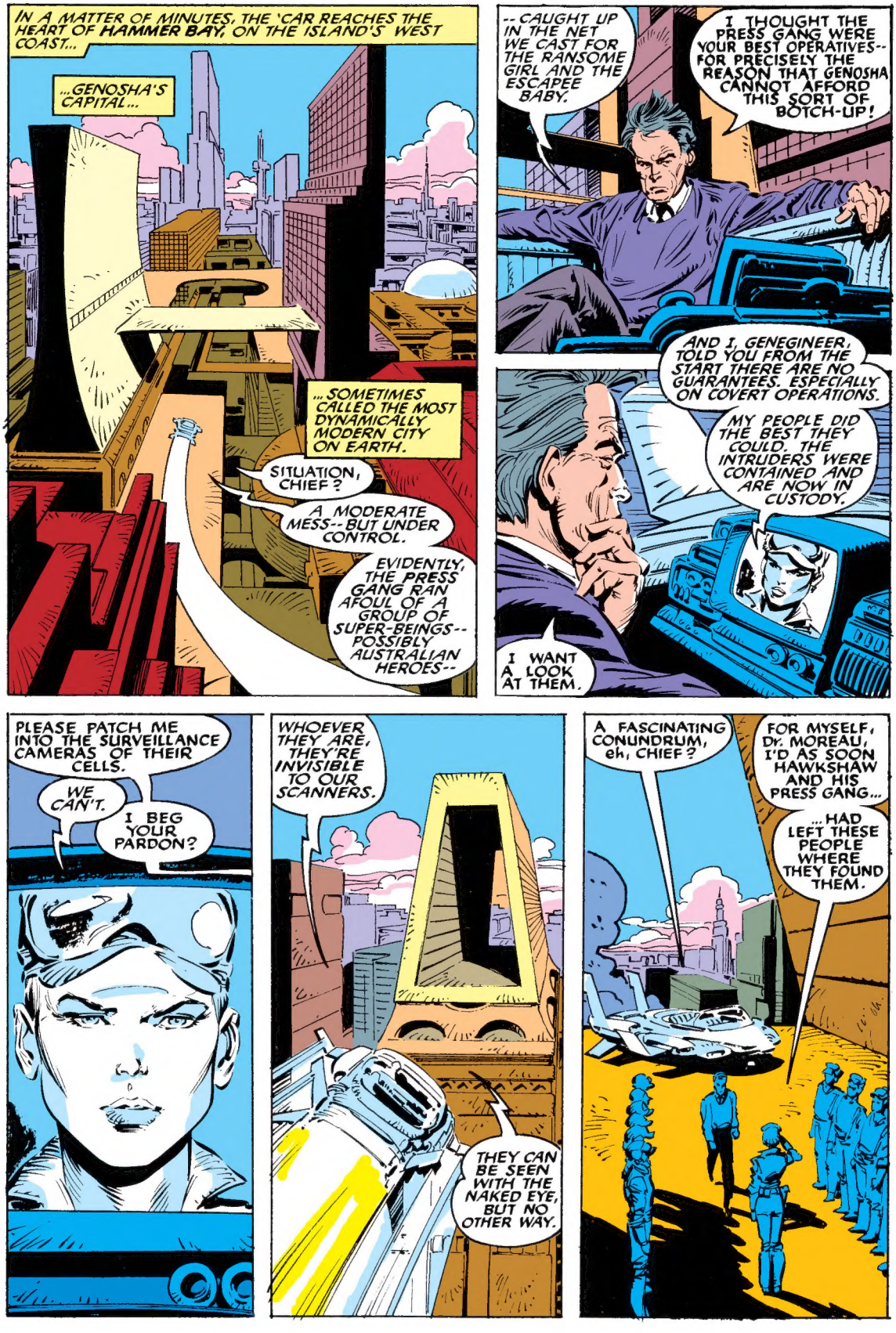
WHO ARE THEY?! WHERE DO THEY COME FROM ?!!
DUNNO, SIR. PIPELINE-- OF THE PRESS GANG--
--JUST MODEM 'EM IN FROM AUSTRALIA.
THEN WHY DIDN'T HE USE A SEDATE PROGRAM ON 'EM FIRST?!
HE DID, SIR.
IT DIDN'T TAKE.
OUR STUNNERS AREN'T DOING MUCH GOOD, EITHER!
THERE'S ONLY TWO OF THEM, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE--
--WE OUT-NUMBER THE MUTIES BETTER THAN TEN-TO-ONE!
AIN'T ENOUGH, SIR.
FALL BACK!
SEAL THE DOOR-WAY!!
'PEARS THEY WANT TO LOCK US IN.
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, WOLVIE...
...AH'D RATHER NOT STICK AROUND...
...T' SEE WHAT COMES THROUGH WHEN THEY RE-OPEN IT.
SLAMM!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, DARLIN'.
DON'T HEAR ANY-THING.
WHERE ARE THE REINFORCEMENTS?
ON THEIR WAY!
HEY-- MAYBE THEY DECIDED TO GIVE UP?
GUESS AGAIN.

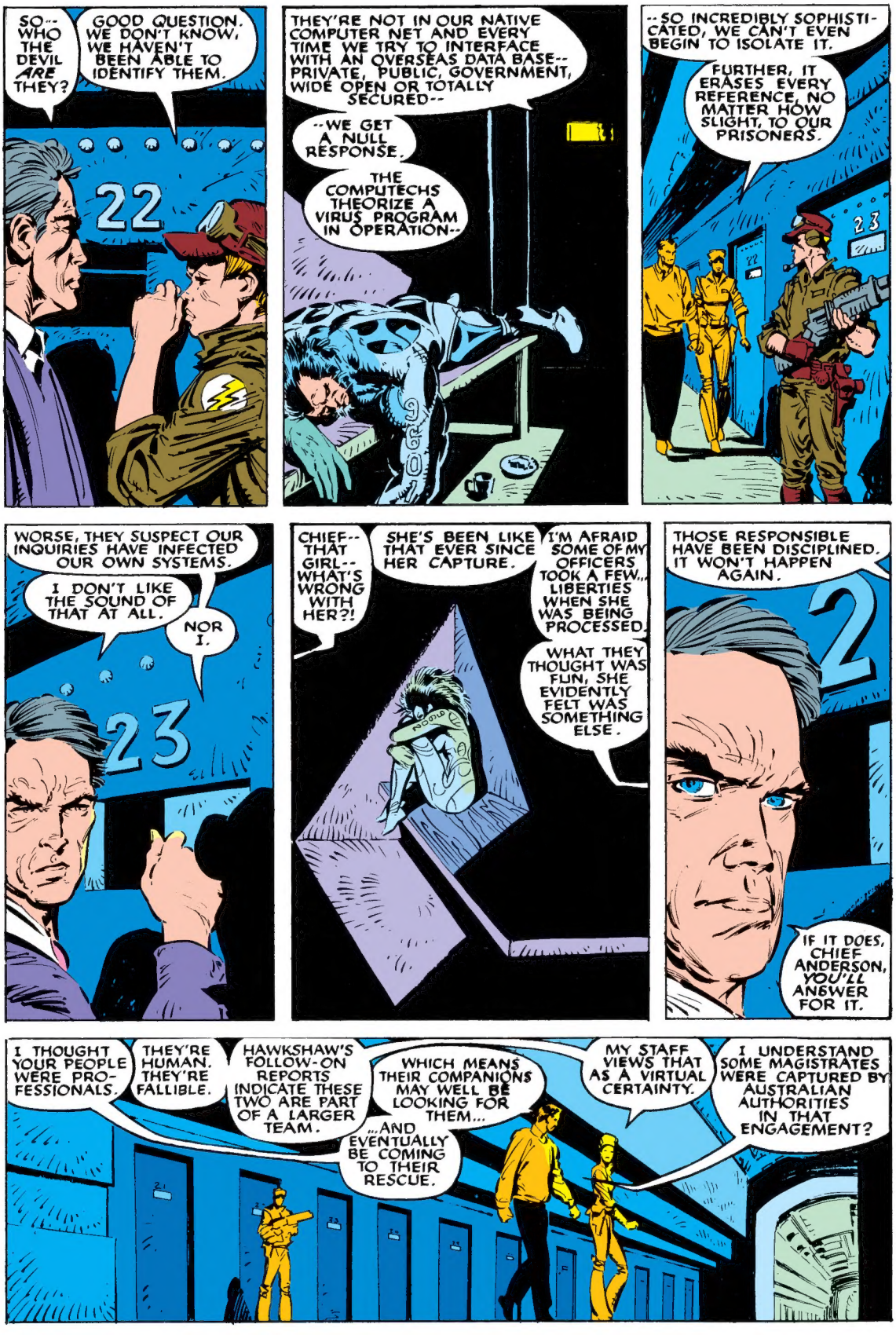

THAT'S OMNIUM STEEL, A FOOT THICK--
--THOSE BLADES, CUTTING THROUGH LIKE PAPER!
HOLY MOTHER, WHAT'LL THEY DO TO FLESH?!
OUR ONLY CHANCE, BLAST 'EM AS THEY COME THROUGH--
--WITH EVERY-THING WE'VE G
YAHGH!
NICE CROWD-- FIRST THEY KIDNAP YOU...
...THEN THEY CAN'T WAIT TO KILL YOU.
WISH AH KNEW WHY.
ROGUE--
--WOLVERINE--
--SEE, JENNY...
...I TOLD YOU THEY'D COME TO RESCUE US!
MADELYNE--
--SO THIS IS WHERE SHE AN' THAT NURSE GOT TO.
WE MUST'A BEEN ZAPPED HERE--
-- WHEREVER THE BLAZES THAT IS--
--THE SAME WAY.
CUTE STUNT-- LEAVIN' OUR CLOTHES BEHIND IN THE PROCESS.
OUT Y'ALL COME, LADIES.
YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE, GENEJOKE--
THAT WORD SOUNDS LIKE AN INSULT, FELLA.
BY THE WAY, Y'ALL SHOULD BE CARE-FUL 'BOUT WHO YOU GET GRABBY WITH. CAN COST YOU..
AH'M ABSORBIN' THEIR PSYCHES-- NO POWERS, THOUGH, THESE'RE NORMAL FOLKS.

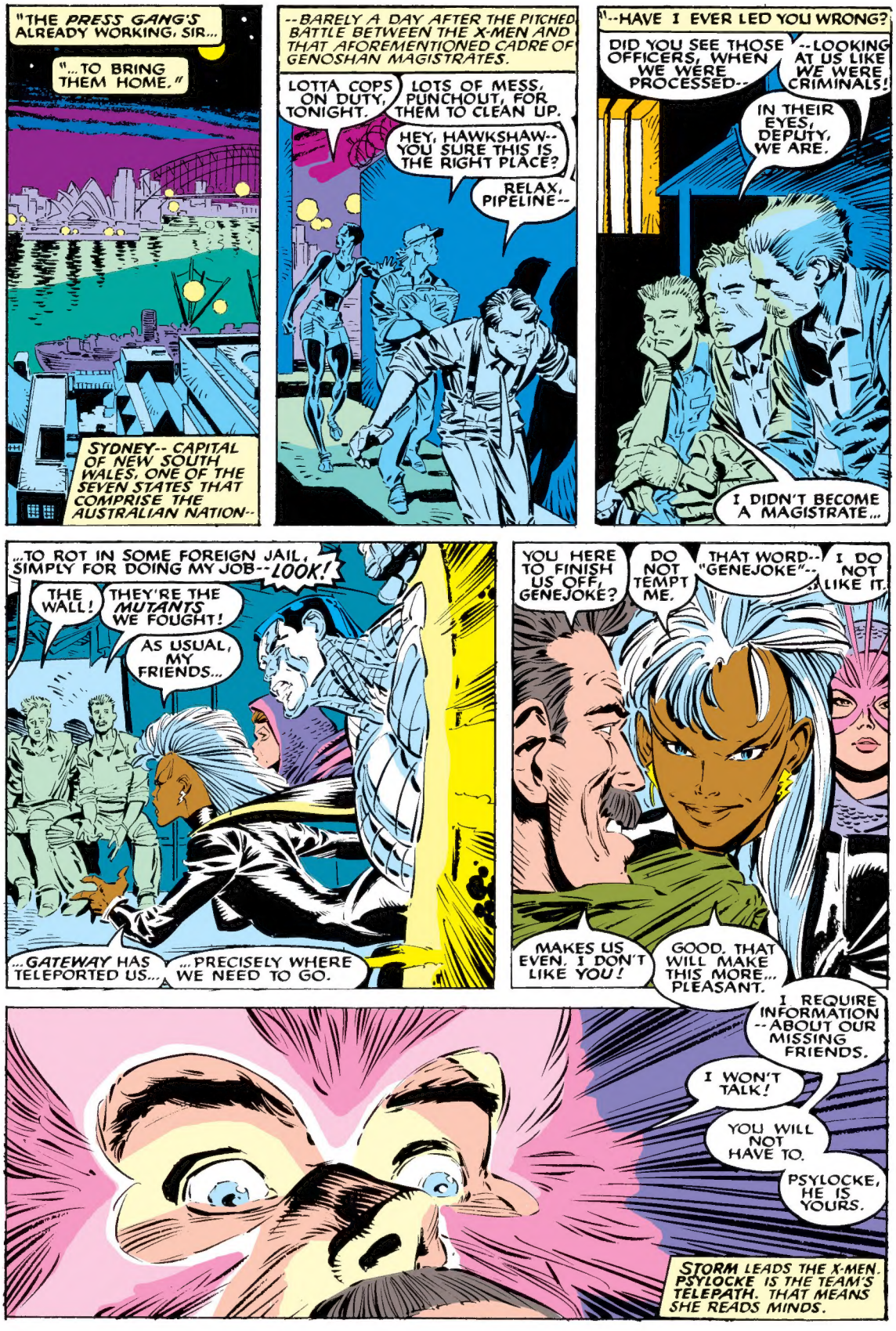
WE'RE SOMEPLACE CALLED GENOSHA, PARTNER...
...AN' THESE ROWDIES ARE THE LOCAL GESTAPO, CALL THEMSELVES MAGISTRATES.
HARDLY "GESTAPO," MY DEAR.
GENOSHA IS A FREE COUNTRY.
WE MAGISTRATES ENFORCE THE LAW...
...AND KNOW FULL WELL...
...HOW TO DEAL WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!
I AM
NICE TRY, GRAN'PA--
-- BUT IT'LL TAKE MORE'N A LUCASFILM LIGHT-SHOW TO PUT US DOWN.
ACTUALLY, CHILD, I PREFER TO BE CALLED BY MY NOM DE GUERRE, WIPEOUT--
--FOR REASONS WHICH HAVE JUST NOW, I SUSPECT...
...BECOME PAINFULLY APPARENT.
OwHW !?!
WHATEVER YOUR PARAHUMAN ABILITIES WERE--
-- THOSE SO-CALLED SUPER-POWERS--
--I'VE ERASED THEM.

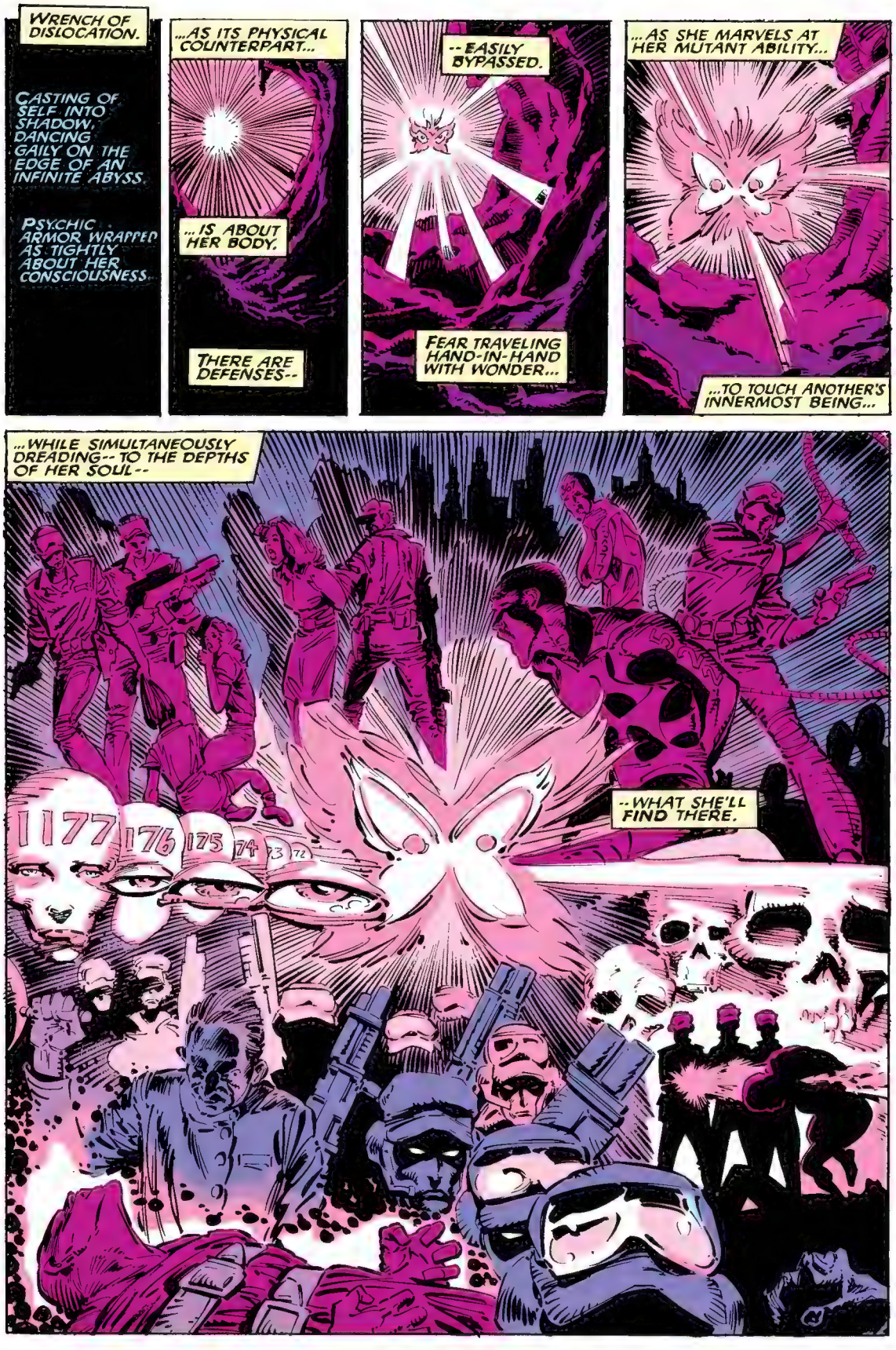

ELSEWHERE ON THE ISLAND...
SFSISFSFSFSFS
bzzzzzz
ring-BRRING
6:00
Harrrgphlf'm!
zzzz
ring-BRING
CHCK
RaZzit!
ZRAM!
HELLO?
HELLO?!
Dr. MOREAU, THIS IS MAGISTRATE HEADQUARTERS --HELLO?!!
KLONK
HE--
hagkgch--
HELLO?
GENEGINEER?
Uaoh... ah, NO, THIS IS HIS SON.
DAD!
YOUR OFFICE JUST CALLED!
EMERGENCY AT THE CITADEL--
-- CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S SENDING A CAR!
BLAST!
I'LL NEVER HAVE A DECENT DAY IN THIS GARDEN!


NO REST FOR THE WICKED, huh?
AS THE AMERICANS SAY, "WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY."
AND NO DAYS OFF.
I'M SORRY, PHILLIP. I KNOW YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR...
HEY, NO PROBLEM, I'M USED TO IT.
IT MUST BE SERIOUS, IF YOU'RE GOING TO WORK DRESSED FOR GARDENING.
FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, IT IS.
PHILLIP, IS ANYTHING THE MATTER? YOU SEEM TROUBLED.
NOTHING THAT WON'T KEEP. GO ON, DAD-- YOU HAVE YOUR JOB, I HAVE KLICKS TO RUN BEFORE CLASSES--
--WE CAN TALK TONIGHT.
TAKE CARE, SON.
YOU, TOO.
HAVE A NICE DAY!
WHOOOM
GARDEN HURT.
TYPICAL MAGISTRATE STYLE--
--NEVER USE A DRIVEWAY...
... WHEN YOU CAN TRASH SOMEONE'S YARD.
FIX IT, WILLYA, BOY?
FIX GOOD, BOSS.
FIX GOOD AS NEW!


IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE 'CAR REACHES THE HEART OF HAMMER BAY, ON THE ISLAND'S WEST COAST...
...GENOSHA'S CAPITAL...
...SOMETIMES CALLED THE MOST DYNAMICALLY MODERN CITY ON EARTH.
SITUATION, CHIEF?
A MODERATE MESS--BUT UNDER CONTROL.
EVIDENTLY, THE PRESS GANG RAN AFOUL OF A GROUP OF SUPER-BEINGS--POSSIBLY AUSTRALIAN HEROES--
--CAUGHT UP IN THE NET WE CAST FOR THE RANSOME GIRL AND THE ESCAPEE BABY.
I THOUGHT THE PRESS GANG WERE YOUR BEST OPERATIVES--FOR PRECISELY THE REASON THAT GENOSHA CANNOT AFFORD THIS SORT OF BOTCH-UP!
AND I, GENEGINEER, TOLD YOU FROM THE START THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES. ESPECIALLY ON COVERT OPERATIONS.
MY PEOPLE DID THE BEST THEY COULD. THE INTRUDERS WERE CONTAINED AND ARE NOW IN CUSTODY.
I WANT A LOOK AT THEM.
PLEASE PATCH ME INTO THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS OF THEIR CELLS.
WE CAN'T.
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE INVISIBLE TO OUR SCANNERS.
THEY CAN BE SEEN WITH THE NAKED EYE, BUT NO OTHER WAY.
A FASCINATING CONUNDRUM, eh, CHIEF?
FOR MYSELF, Dr. MOREAU, I'D AS SOON HAWKSHAW AND HIS PRESS GANG...
...HAD LEFT THESE PEOPLE WHERE THEY FOUND THEM.


SO-- WHO THE DEVIL ARE THEY?
GOOD QUESTION. WE DON'T KNOW, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY THEM.
22
THEY'RE NOT IN OUR NATIVE COMPUTER NET AND EVERY TIME WE TRY TO INTERFACE WITH AN OVERSEAS DATA BASE-- PRIVATE, PUBLIC, GOVERNMENT, WIDE OPEN OR TOTALLY SECURED--
--WE GET A NULL RESPONSE.
THE COMPUTECHS THEORIZE A VIRUS PROGRAM IN OPERATION--
--SO INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED, WE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO ISOLATE IT.
FURTHER, IT ERASES EVERY REFERENCE, NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT, TO OUR PRISONERS.
23
WORSE, THEY SUSPECT OUR INQUIRIES HAVE INFECTED OUR OWN SYSTEMS.
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT AT ALL.
NOR I.
23
CHIEF-- THAT GIRL-- WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?!
SHE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE HER CAPTURE.
I'M AFRAID SOME OF MY OFFICERS TOOK A FEW LIBERTIES WHEN SHE WAS BEING PROCESSED.
WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS FUN, SHE EVIDENTLY FELT WAS SOMETHING ELSE.
THOSE RESPONSIBLE HAVE BEEN DISCIPLINED. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
2
IF IT DOES, CHIEF ANDERSON, YOU'LL ANSWER FOR IT.
I THOUGHT YOUR PEOPLE WERE PROFESSIONALS.
THEY'RE HUMAN. THEY'RE FALLIBLE.
HAWKSHAW'S FOLLOW-ON REPORTS INDICATE THESE TWO ARE PART OF A LARGER TEAM.
WHICH MEANS THEIR COMPANIONS MAY WELL BE LOOKING FOR THEM...
...AND EVENTUALLY BE COMING TO THEIR RESCUE.
MY STAFF VIEWS THAT AS A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY.
I UNDERSTAND SOME MAGISTRATES WERE CAPTURED BY AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES IN THAT ENGAGEMENT?


"THE PRESS GANG'S ALREADY WORKING, SIR...
"...TO BRING THEM HOME."
SYDNEY-- CAPITAL OF NEW SOUTH WALES, ONE OF THE SEVEN STATES THAT COMPRISE THE AUSTRALIAN NATION--
--BARELY A DAY AFTER THE PITCHED BATTLE BETWEEN THE X-MEN AND THAT AFOREMENTIONED CADRE OF GENOSHAN MAGISTRATES.
LOTTA COPS ON DUTY, TONIGHT.
LOTS OF MESS, PUNCHOUT, FOR THEM TO CLEAN UP.
HEY, HAWKSHAW-- YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE?
RELAX, PIPELINE--
--HAVE I EVER LED YOU WRONG?
DID YOU SEE THOSE OFFICERS, WHEN WE WERE PROCESSED--
--LOOKING AT US LIKE WE WERE CRIMINALS!
IN THEIR EYES, DEPUTY, WE ARE.
I DIDN'T BECOME A MAGISTRATE...
...TO ROT IN SOME FOREIGN JAIL, SIMPLY FOR DOING MY JOB--
LOOK!
THE WALL!
THEY'RE THE MUTANTS WE FOUGHT!
AS USUAL, MY FRIENDS...
...GATEWAY HAS TELEPORTED US...
...PRECISELY WHERE WE NEED TO GO.
YOU HERE TO FINISH US OFF, GENEJOKE?
DO NOT TEMPT ME.
THAT WORD-- "GENEJOKE"--
I DO NOT LIKE IT.
MAKES US EVEN. I DON'T LIKE YOU!
GOOD. THAT WILL MAKE THIS MORE... PLEASANT.
I REQUIRE INFORMATION --ABOUT OUR MISSING FRIENDS.
I WON'T TALK!
YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO.
PSYLOCKE, HE IS YOURS.
STORM LEADS THE X-MEN. PSYLOCKE IS THE TEAM'S TELEPATH. THAT MEANS SHE READS MINDS.


WRENCH OF DISLOCATION.
CASTING OF SELF INTO SHADOW, DANCING GAILY ON THE EDGE OF AN INFINITE ABYSS.
PSYCHIC ARMOR WRAPPED AS TIGHTLY ABOUT HER CONSCIOUSNESS.
...AS ITS PHYSICAL COUNTERPART...
...IS ABOUT HER BODY.
THERE ARE DEFENSES--
--EASILY BYPASSED.
FEAR TRAVELING HAND-IN-HAND WITH WONDER...
...AS SHE MARVELS AT HER MUTANT ABILITY...
...TO TOUCH ANOTHER'S INNERMOST BEING...
...WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY DREADING-- TO THE DEPTHS OF HER SOUL--
--WHAT SHE'LL FIND THERE.
177
176
175
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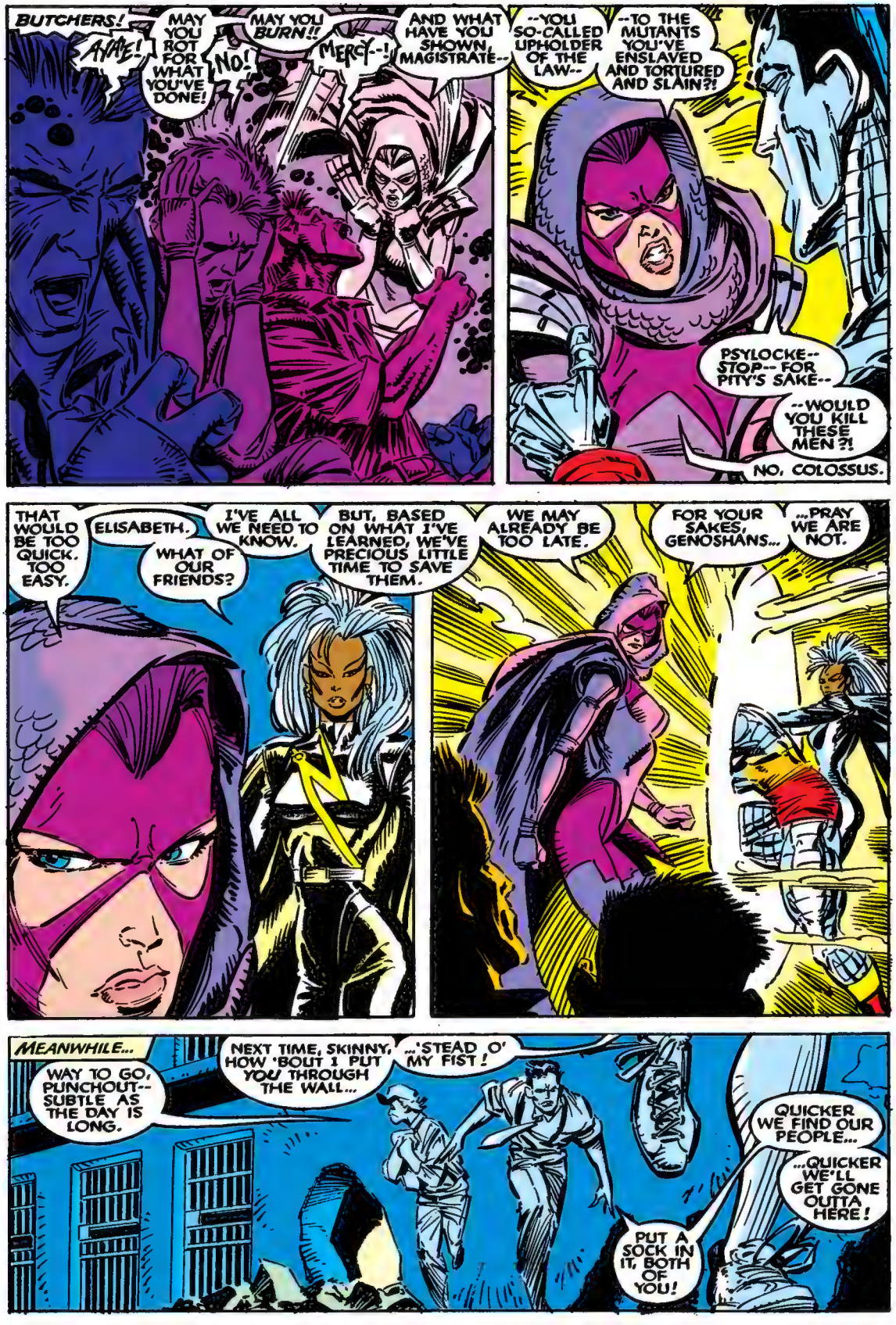
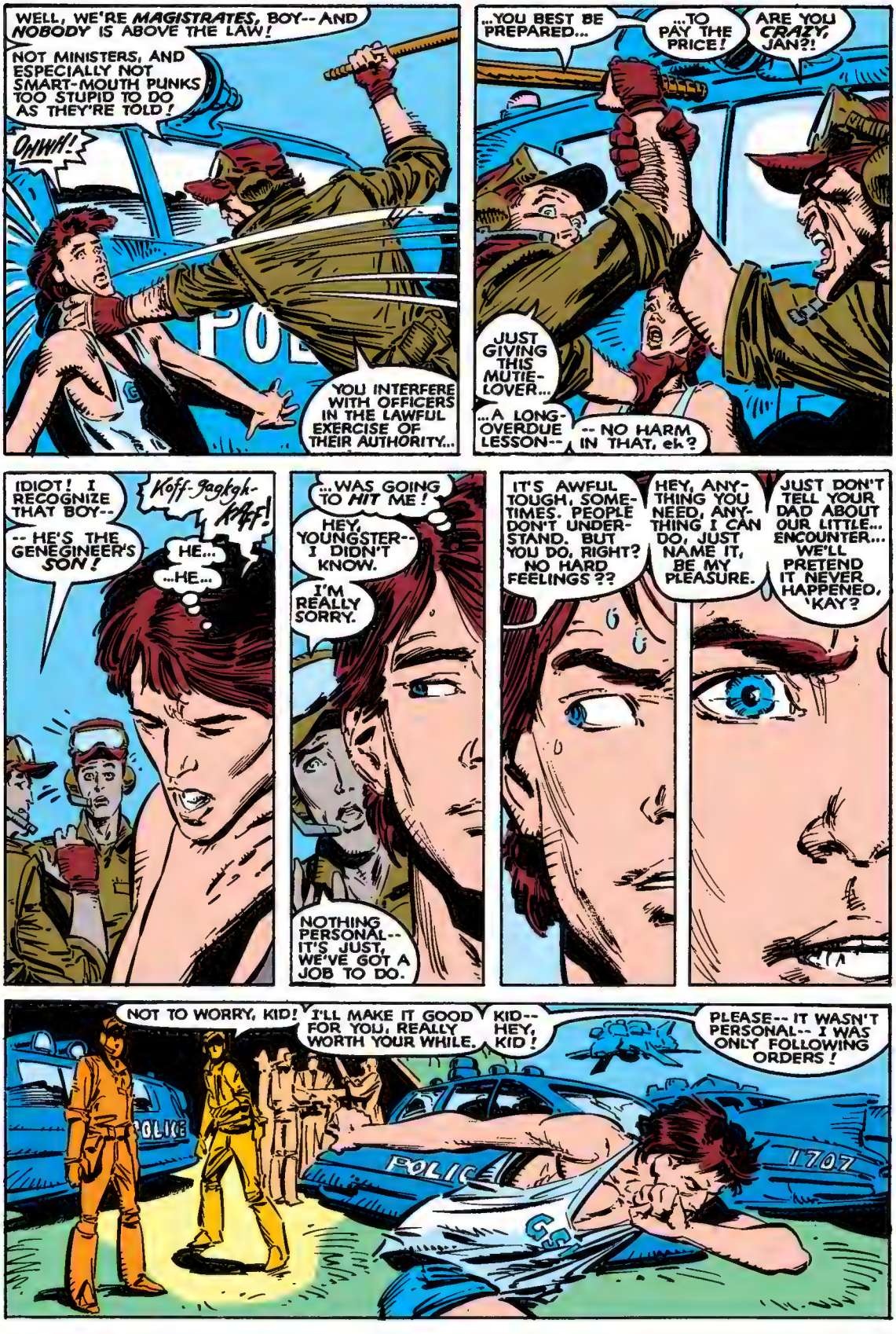
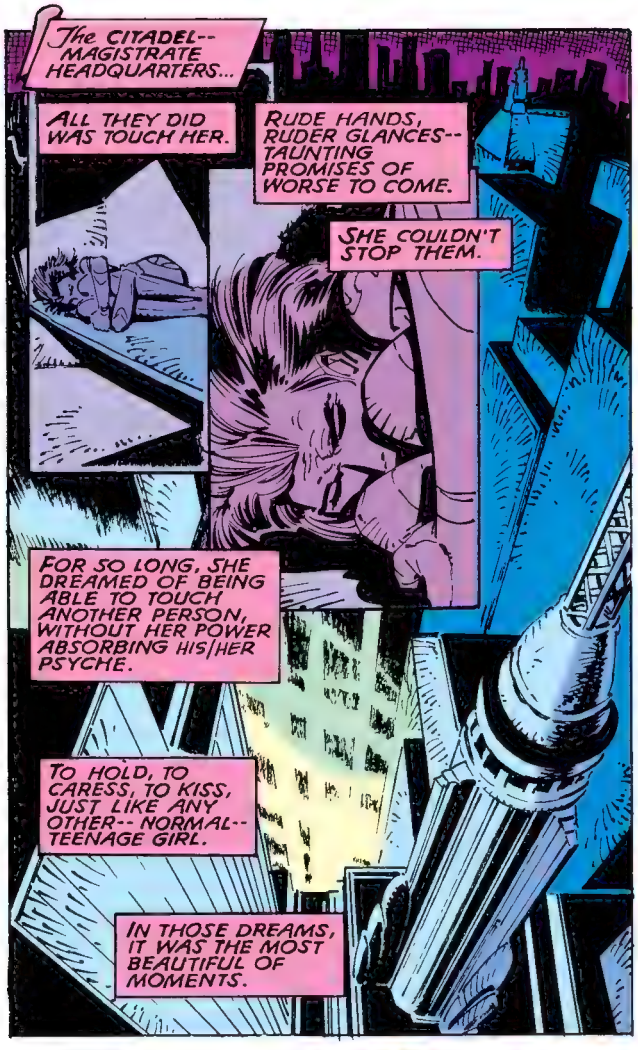
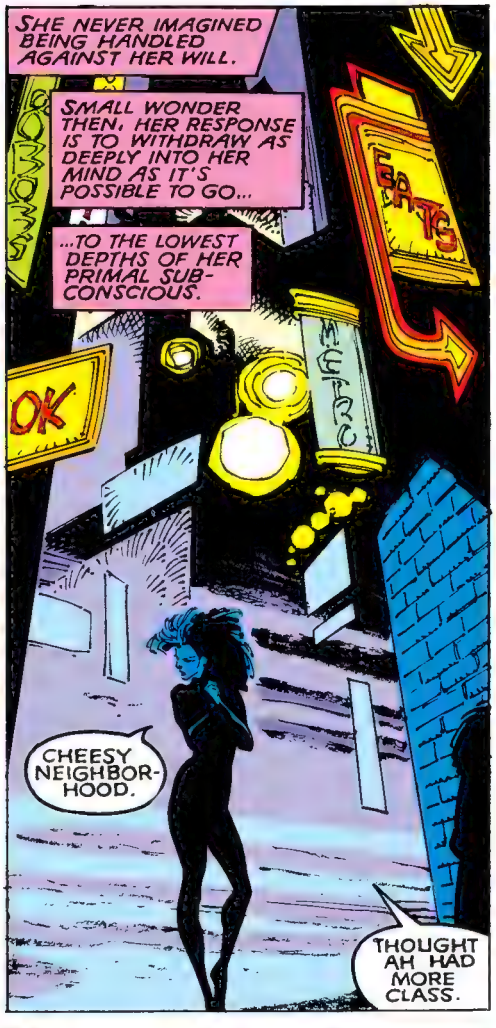

BUTCHERS!
AYAE!
MAY YOU ROT FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
NO!
MAY YOU BURN!!
MERCY--!
AND WHAT HAVE YOU SHOWN, MAGISTRATE--
--YOU SO-CALLED UPHOLDER OF THE LAW--
--TO THE MUTANTS YOU'VE ENSLAVED AND TORTURED AND SLAIN?!
PSYLOCKE-- STOP-- FOR PITY'S SAKE--
--WOULD YOU KILL THESE MEN?!
NO, COLOSSUS.
THAT WOULD BE TOO QUICK. TOO EASY.
ELISABETH.
WHAT OF OUR FRIENDS?
I'VE ALL WE NEED TO KNOW.
BUT, BASED ON WHAT I'VE LEARNED, WE'VE PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME TO SAVE THEM.
WE MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE.
FOR YOUR SAKES, GENOSHANS...
...PRAY WE ARE NOT.
MEANWHILE...
WAY TO GO, PUNCHOUT-- SUBTLE AS THE DAY IS LONG.
NEXT TIME, SKINNY, HOW 'BOUT I PUT YOU THROUGH THE WALL...
...'STEAD O' MY FIST!
QUICKER WE FIND OUR PEOPLE...
...QUICKER WE'LL GET GONE OUTTA HERE!
PUT A SOCK IN IT, BOTH OF YOU!

ROUGHLY 1500 MILES WEST BY NORTH...
...ATOP THE PROMONTORY OVERLOOKING THIS DESOLATE, LONG-ABANDONED OUTBACK TOWN...
...GATEWAY SPINS HIS BULL-ROARER--
--OPENING A PORTAL BETWEEN HERE AND THERE--
--AND BRINGS THE X-MEN HOME...
...TO REJOIN THE REST OF THE TEAM.
EXPLANATIONS ARE BRIEFLY MADE...
...AND OUR HEROES ARE OFF AGAIN.
ONCE MORE, GATEWAY IS ALONE, AND SILENCE CLAIMS HIS DESERT.
BUT BENEATH ITS ETERNAL SANDS--
--IN THE COMPUTER CENTER THAT IS IN MANY WAYS THE HEART OF THIS SPRAWLING, SECRET COMPLEX--
--THINGS ARE HAPPENING.
HELLO?
HELLO?!
I AM N'ASTIRH. S'YM TOLD ME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU...
...REGARDING SOME "SPECIAL" MERCHANDISE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN.
BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT ABOUT...
...I'LL RING BACK LATER.
HAVE A NICE DAY.

GENOSHA...
PICK 'EM UP AN' SET 'EM DOWN, PICK 'EM UP AN' SET 'EM DOWN--
--ONE MORE CIRCUIT--
--THEN SHOWER AN' BREKKER AN'...
...WAI OHWH!
MAGISTRATES--
--A FAST-REACTION STRIKE TEAM--
--BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE...
... IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!
NO THIS IS NUTS I'M HALLUCINATING IT CAN'T BE!
THAT'S JENNY'S HOUSE! THOSE ARE HER FOLKS!
THEY'RE ARRESTING HER WHOLE FAMILY!?!
WHAT IS THIS, WHAT'S GOING ON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
POLICE BUSINESS, SON.
MOVE ALONG NOW, THERE'S A GOOD LAD, THIS IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS.
BUT THIS IS WRONG, IT HAS TO BE A MISTAKE!
I KNOW THESE PEOPLE-- Mr. RANSOME'S A GOVERNMENT MINISTER!

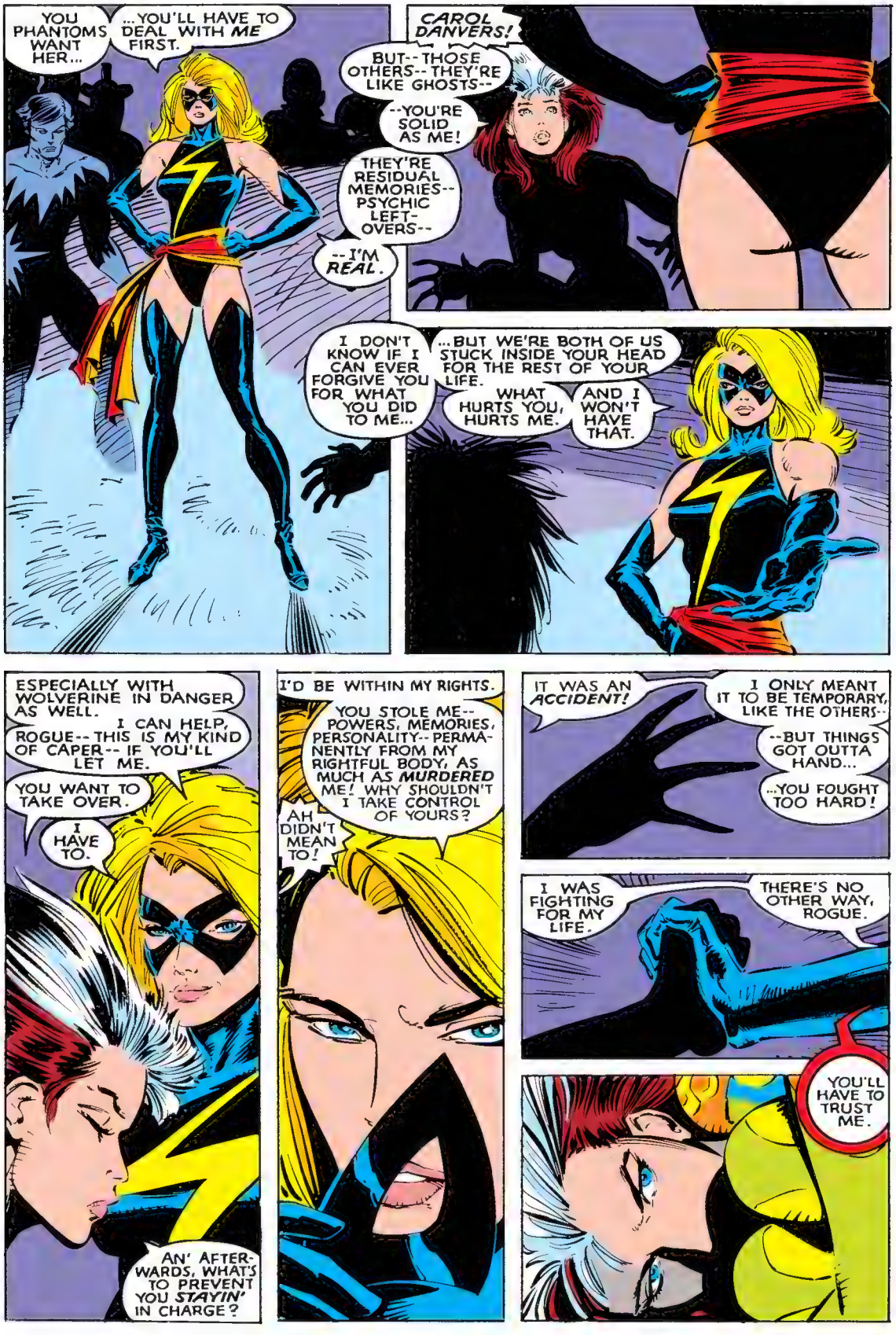

WELL, WE'RE MAGISTRATES, BOY-- AND NOBODY IS ABOVE THE LAW!
NOT MINISTERS, AND ESPECIALLY NOT SMART-MOUTH PUNKS TOO STUPID TO DO AS THEY'RE TOLD!
OHWH!
YOU INTERFERE WITH OFFICERS IN THE LAWFUL EXERCISE OF THEIR AUTHORITY...
...YOU BEST BE PREPARED...
...TO PAY THE PRICE!
ARE YOU CRAZY, JAN?!
JUST GIVING THIS MUTIE-LOVER...
...A LONG-OVERDUE LESSON--
-- NO HARM IN THAT, eh?
IDIOT! I RECOGNIZE THAT BOY--
-- HE'S THE GENEGINEER'S SON!
Koff-gagkgh-Kff!
HE...
...HE...
...WAS GOING TO HIT ME!
HEY, YOUNGSTER-- I DIDN'T KNOW.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
NOTHING PERSONAL-- IT'S JUST, WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO.
IT'S AWFUL TOUGH, SOMETIMES. PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND. BUT YOU DO, RIGHT? NO HARD FEELINGS??
HEY, ANYTHING YOU NEED, ANYTHING I CAN DO, JUST NAME IT, BE MY PLEASURE.
JUST DON'T TELL YOUR DAD ABOUT OUR LITTLE... ENCOUNTER... WE'LL PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED, 'KAY?
NOT TO WORRY, KID!
I'LL MAKE IT GOOD FOR YOU, REALLY WORTH YOUR WHILE.
KID-- HEY, KID!
POLICE
1707
PLEASE-- IT WASN'T PERSONAL-- I WAS ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS!


The CITADEL-- MAGISTRATE HEADQUARTERS...
ALL THEY DID WAS TOUCH HER.
RUDE HANDS, RUDER GLANCES-- TAUNTING PROMISES OF WORSE TO COME.
SHE COULDN'T STOP THEM.
FOR SO LONG, SHE DREAMED OF BEING ABLE TO TOUCH ANOTHER PERSON, WITHOUT HER POWER ABSORBING HIS/HER PSYCHE.
TO HOLD, TO CARESS, TO KISS, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER-- NORMAL-- TEENAGE GIRL.
IN THOSE DREAMS, IT WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF MOMENTS.


SHE NEVER IMAGINED BEING HANDLED AGAINST HER WILL.
SMALL WONDER THEN, HER RESPONSE IS TO WITHDRAW AS DEEPLY INTO HER MIND AS IT'S POSSIBLE TO GO...
...TO THE LOWEST DEPTHS OF HER PRIMAL SUB-CONSCIOUS.
OK
CHEESY NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
THOUGHT AH HAD MORE CLASS.

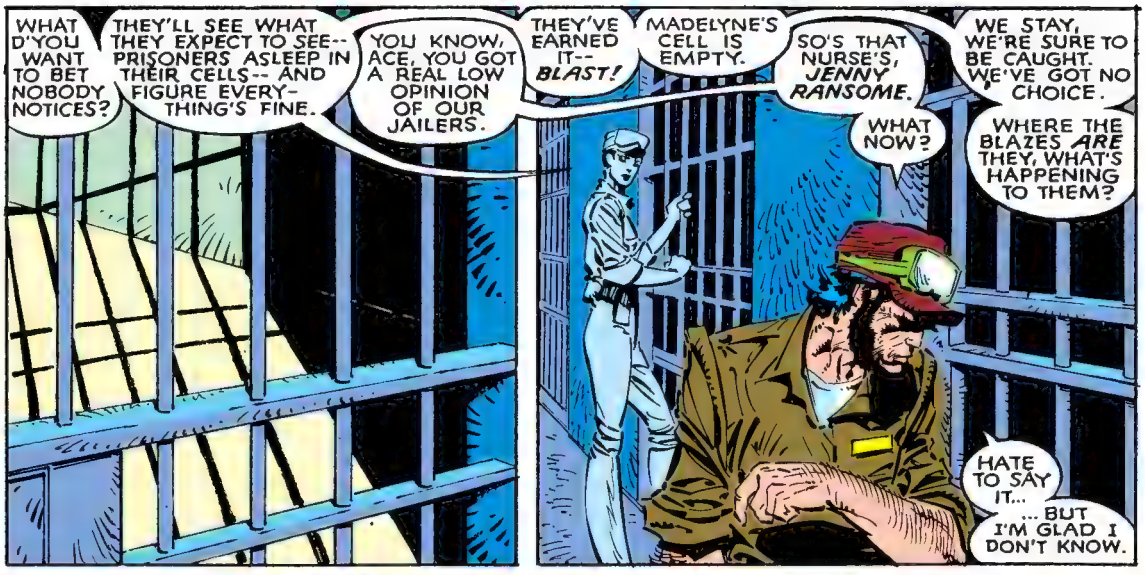
SWEET NORNS, SEE WHO'S COME TO VISIT!
REMEMBER US, DEARIE?
ALL THE PEOPLE AH EVER ABSORBED--
--BUT THAT EFFECT IS ONLY TEMPORARY--
--HOW CAN Y'ALL STILL BE INSIDE MY HEAD?!
STOLEN POWERS AND MEMORIES FADE, LIEBCHEN...
...BUT THERE'S A PSYCHIC RESIDUE--

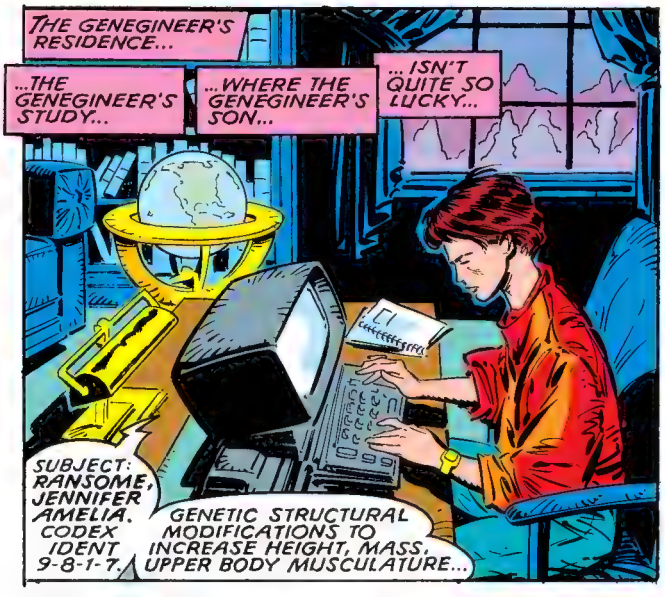
--SORT'A LIKE SCAR TISSUE--
--THAT YOU'LL NEVER BE RID OF!
WE'RE ALL A PART OF YOU, GENE-JOKE!
NO!
AND NOW THOU HAST LOST THY POWERS AND BE-COME VULNERABLE...
...WE CAN'T WAIT TO TEAR YOU TO BITS!

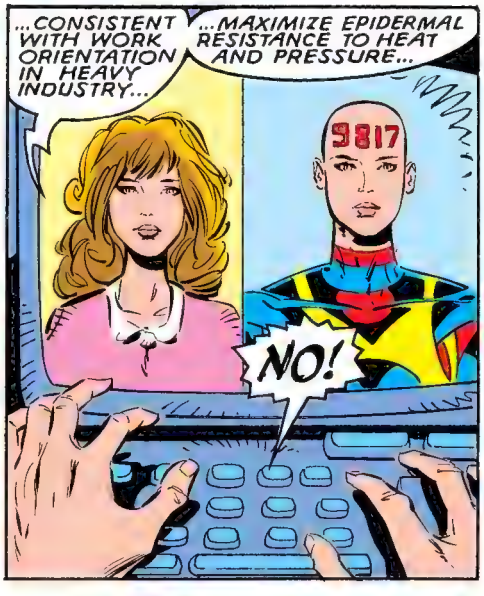

YOU PHANTOMS WANT HER...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME FIRST.
CAROL DANVERS!
BUT--THOSE OTHERS--THEY'RE LIKE GHOSTS--
--YOU'RE SOLID AS ME!
THEY'RE RESIDUAL MEMORIES--PSYCHIC LEFT-OVERS--
--I'M REAL.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN EVER FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME...
...BUT WE'RE BOTH OF US STUCK INSIDE YOUR HEAD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
WHAT HURTS YOU, HURTS ME.
AND I WON'T HAVE THAT.
ESPECIALLY WITH WOLVERINE IN DANGER AS WELL.
I CAN HELP, ROGUE--THIS IS MY KIND OF CAPER--IF YOU'LL LET ME.
YOU WANT TO TAKE OVER.
I HAVE TO.
AN' AFTER-WARDS, WHAT'S TO PREVENT YOU STAYIN' IN CHARGE?
I'D BE WITHIN MY RIGHTS.
YOU STOLE ME--POWERS, MEMORIES, PERSONALITY--PERMA-NENTLY FROM MY RIGHTFUL BODY, AS MUCH AS MURDERED ME! WHY SHOULDN'T I TAKE CONTROL OF YOURS?
AH DIDN'T MEAN TO!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
I ONLY MEANT IT TO BE TEMPORARY, LIKE THE OTHERS--
--BUT THINGS GOT OUTTA HAND...
...YOU FOUGHT TOO HARD!
I WAS FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE.
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY, ROGUE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO TRUST ME.

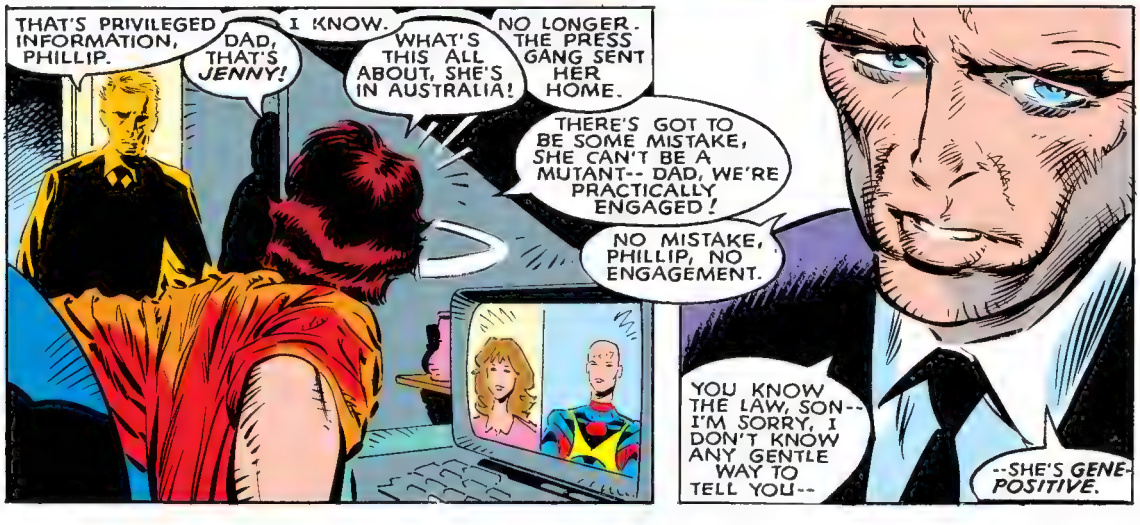
THERE SHE IS!
ON YOUR FEET, GENE-JOKE!
POOR BABY, LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAD A ROUGH DAY, SURELY BREAKS MY HEART!
GENEGINEER'D HAVE OUR BADGES AN' BUTTS...
...HE KNEW WHAT WE WERE ABOUT.
HE DON'T WANT YOU TOUCHED.
REMEMBER US, SKUNK-HAIR?
YOU STOLE OUR MINDS, BEFORE WIPEOUT NAILED YOU.
BUT GUESS WHAT, WE DON'T CARE!
NOW WE'RE GOING TO GET EVEN.
DON'T BOTHER SCREAMING FOR HELP.
THE "FIX" IS IN.
ALL THE MONITORS HEREABOUTS ARE "OUT OF ORDER"--WHUAA?!?
HOW CONSIDERATE!
KHWUF!
REMIND ME TO THANK THE PAIR OF YOU...
KRAK
... WHEN I'VE THE CHANCE!
KOOM!
THREE MOVES--TWO KAYOS--IN AS MANY SECONDS.
ZZIP
NICE TO SEE...
...I HAVEN'T LOST MY TOUCH.

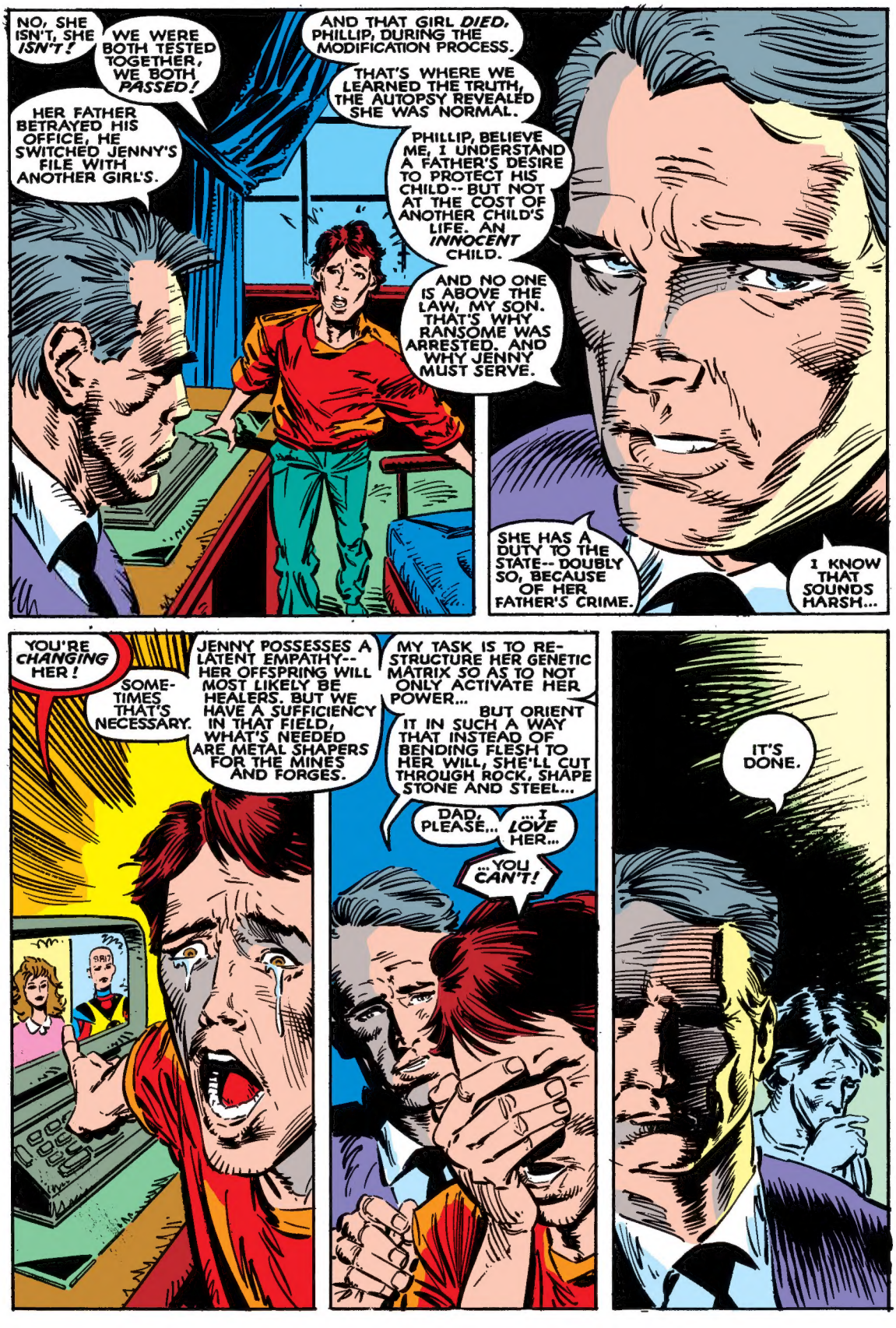
ONE QUICK-CHANGE LATER...
...IN THE CELL NEXT DOOR...
WOLVERINE!
UP AN' AT 'EM, WILDBOY!
?
!
LOGAN?!
I THOUGHT HE WAS SHAMMING...
...PLAYING "POSSUM" AS I DID.
BUT HE'S REALLY OUT!
LOGAN!
NOW THERE'S A VOICE...
...I NEVER FIGURED TO HEAR AGAIN.
YOU TOP PSYCHE, CAROL...
...IN THE KID'S SKULL?
SEEMED LIKE A BRILLIANT IDEA AT THE TIME.
YOU LOOK AWFUL, CHUM.
I FEEL WORSE.
SOON AS WE'RE CLEAR OF THIS DUMP, I'LL GET YOU SOME HELP. YOU'LL BE FINE.
YOU'RE LYIN'! BUT I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT.
LEAVE ME, CAROL. I'M IN NO SHAPE TO TRAVEL. I'LL ONLY SLOW YOU DOWN.
AS I RECALL...
...I SAID MUCH THE SAME, THE NIGHT YOU RESCUED ME FROM THE KGB.
YOU DIDN'T LISTEN THEN.
I'M NOT ABOUT TO NOW.
THIS'LL NEVER WORK, ACE.
AGAINST THIS CROWD, HOW CAN'T IT?
THEY'LL KNOW WE'RE GONE SIMPLY FROM BEING ABLE TO SEE THOSE TWO TIED-UP DUMMIES ON THEIR MONITORS...
...WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE INVISIBLE.
CALCULATED RISK.

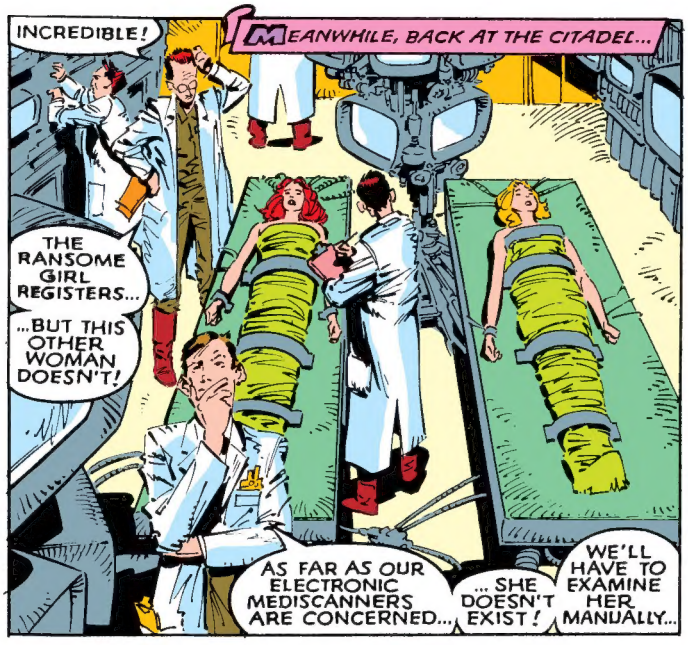

WHAT D'YOU WANT TO BET NOBODY NOTICES?
THEY'LL SEE WHAT THEY EXPECT TO SEE-- PRISONERS ASLEEP IN THEIR CELLS-- AND FIGURE EVERY-THING'S FINE.
YOU KNOW, ACE, YOU GOT A REAL LOW OPINION OF OUR JAILERS.
THEY'VE EARNED IT-- BLAST!
MADELYNE'S CELL IS EMPTY.
SO'S THAT NURSE'S, JENNY RANSOME.
WHAT NOW?
WE STAY, WE'RE SURE TO BE CAUGHT. WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
WHERE THE BLAZES ARE THEY, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM?
HATE TO SAY IT...
... BUT I'M GLAD I DON'T KNOW.

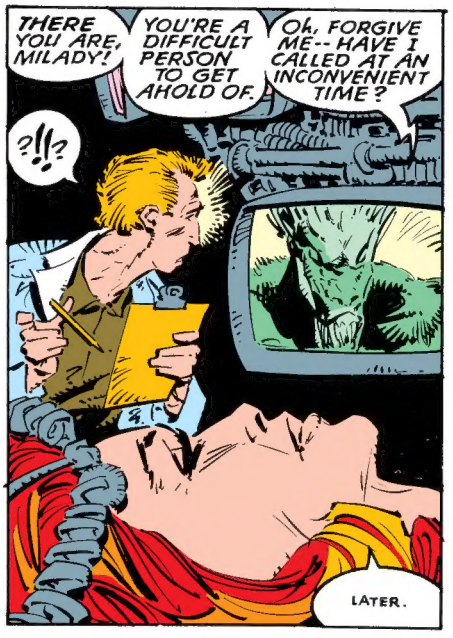

THE GENEGINEER'S RESIDENCE...
...THE GENEGINEER'S STUDY...
...WHERE THE GENEGINEER'S SON...
...ISN'T QUITE SO LUCKY...
SUBJECT: RANSOME, JENNIFER AMELIA. CODEX IDENT 9-8-1-7.
GENETIC STRUCTURAL MODIFICATIONS TO INCREASE HEIGHT, MASS, UPPER BODY MUSCULATURE...


...CONSISTENT WITH WORK ORIENTATION IN HEAVY INDUSTRY...
...MAXIMIZE EPIDERMAL RESISTANCE TO HEAT AND PRESSURE...
9817
NO!

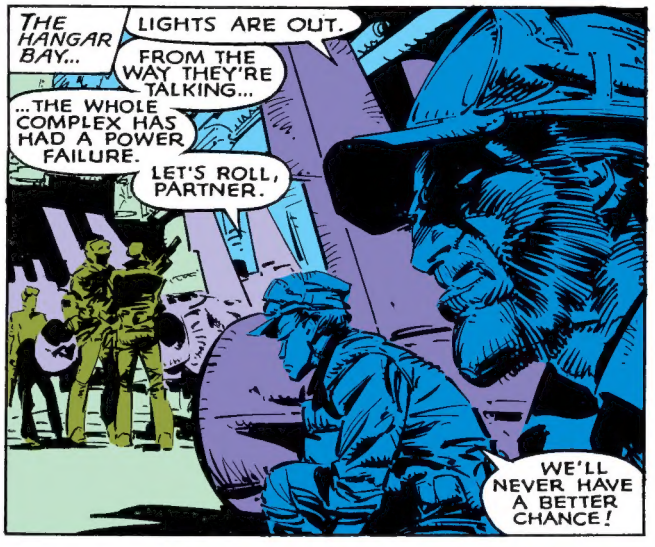

THAT'S PRIVILEGED INFORMATION, PHILLIP.
I KNOW. DAD, THAT'S JENNY!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, SHE'S IN AUSTRALIA!
NO LONGER. THE PRESS GANG SENT HER HOME.
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME MISTAKE, SHE CAN'T BE A MUTANT-- DAD, WE'RE PRACTICALLY ENGAGED!
NO MISTAKE, PHILLIP, NO ENGAGEMENT.
YOU KNOW THE LAW, SON-- I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW ANY GENTLE WAY TO TELL YOU--
--SHE'S GENE-POSITIVE.

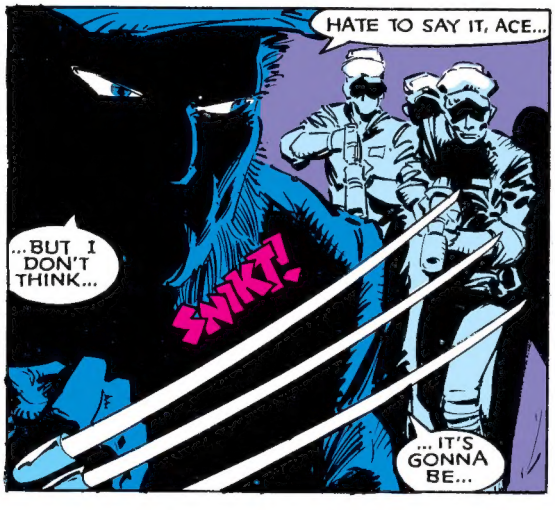

NO, SHE ISN'T, SHE *ISN'T!*
WE WERE BOTH TESTED TOGETHER, WE BOTH *PASSED!*
HER FATHER BETRAYED HIS OFFICE, HE SWITCHED JENNY'S FILE WITH ANOTHER GIRL'S.
AND THAT GIRL *DIED*, PHILLIP, DURING THE MODIFICATION PROCESS.
THAT'S WHERE WE LEARNED THE TRUTH, THE AUTOPSY REVEALED SHE WAS NORMAL.
PHILLIP, BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND A FATHER'S DESIRE TO PROTECT HIS CHILD-- BUT NOT AT THE COST OF ANOTHER CHILD'S LIFE. AN *INNOCENT* CHILD.
AND NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW, MY SON. THAT'S WHY RANSOME WAS ARRESTED. AND WHY JENNY MUST SERVE.
SHE HAS A DUTY TO THE STATE-- DOUBLY SO, BECAUSE OF HER FATHER'S CRIME.
I KNOW THAT SOUNDS HARSH...
YOU'RE *CHANGING* HER!
SOME-TIMES THAT'S NECESSARY.
JENNY POSSESSES A LATENT EMPATHY-- HER OFFSPRING WILL MOST LIKELY BE HEALERS. BUT WE HAVE A SUFFICIENCY IN THAT FIELD, WHAT'S NEEDED ARE METAL SHAPERS FOR THE MINES AND FORGES.
MY TASK IS TO RE-STRUCTURE HER GENETIC MATRIX SO AS TO NOT ONLY ACTIVATE HER POWER... BUT ORIENT IT IN SUCH A WAY THAT INSTEAD OF BENDING FLESH TO HER WILL, SHE'LL CUT THROUGH ROCK, SHAPE STONE AND STEEL...
DAD, PLEASE...
...I *LOVE* HER...
...YOU *CAN'T!*
IT'S DONE.

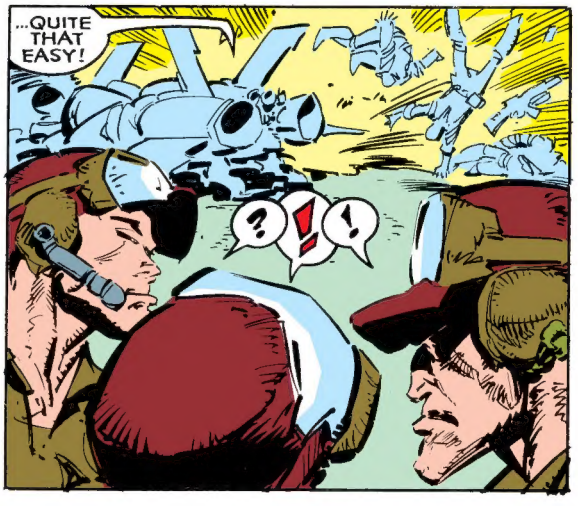

INCREDIBLE!
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE CITADEL...
THE RANSOME GIRL REGISTERS...
...BUT THIS OTHER WOMAN DOESN'T!
AS FAR AS OUR ELECTRONIC MEDISCANNERS ARE CONCERNED...
... SHE DOESN'T EXIST!
WE'LL HAVE TO EXAMINE HER MANUALLY...

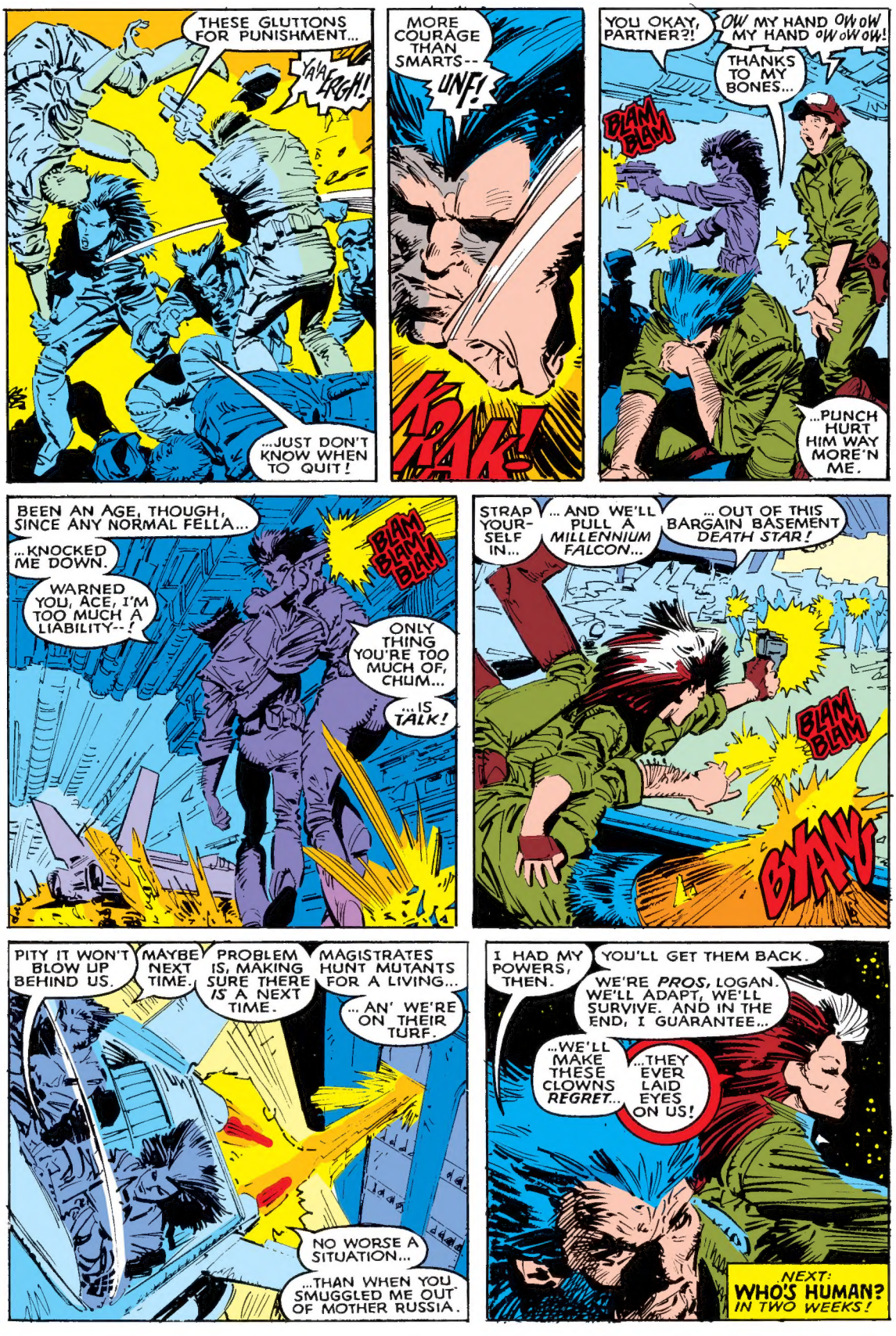

THERE YOU ARE, MILADY!
YOU'RE A DIFFICULT PERSON TO GET AHOLD OF.
Oh, FORGIVE ME--HAVE I CALLED AT AN INCONVENIENT TIME?
?!!?
LATER.

YOUR SLIGHTEST WISH, MILADY...
...IS MY COMMAND.
KAPOOM!
GOOD LORD?!!


THE HANGAR BAY...
LIGHTS ARE OUT.
FROM THE WAY THEY'RE TALKING...
...THE WHOLE COMPLEX HAS HAD A POWER FAILURE.
LET'S ROLL, PARTNER.
WE'LL NEVER HAVE A BETTER CHANCE!


HATE TO SAY IT, ACE...
...BUT I DON'T THINK...
SNIKT!
... IT'S GONNA BE...


...QUITE THAT EASY!
?!!


THESE GLUTTONS FOR PUNISHMENT...
YAAA ERGH!
...JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT!
MORE COURAGE THAN SMARTS--
UNF!
KRAK!
YOU OKAY, PARTNER?!
OW MY HAND OW OW MY HAND OW OW OW!
THANKS TO MY BONES...
BLAM BLAM
...PUNCH HURT HIM WAY MORE'N ME.
BEEN AN AGE, THOUGH, SINCE ANY NORMAL FELLA...
...KNOCKED ME DOWN.
WARNED YOU, ACE, I'M TOO MUCH A LIABILITY--!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
ONLY THING YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF, CHUM...
...IS TALK!
STRAP YOUR-SELF IN...
... AND WE'LL PULL A MILLENNIUM FALCON...
... OUT OF THIS BARGAIN BASEMENT DEATH STAR!
BLAM BLAM
BYAAU
PITY IT WON'T BLOW UP BEHIND US.
MAYBE NEXT TIME.
PROBLEM IS, MAKING SURE THERE IS A NEXT TIME.
MAGISTRATES HUNT MUTANTS FOR A LIVING...
... AN' WE'RE ON THEIR TURF.
NO WORSE A SITUATION...
...THAN WHEN YOU SMUGGLED ME OUT OF MOTHER RUSSIA.
I HAD MY POWERS, THEN.
YOU'LL GET THEM BACK.
WE'RE PROS, LOGAN. WE'LL ADAPT, WE'LL SURVIVE. AND IN THE END, I GUARANTEE...
...WE'LL MAKE THESE CLOWNS REGRET...
...THEY EVER LAID EYES ON US!
NEXT: WHO'S HUMAN? IN TWO WEEKS!

MINUTEMEN
Blutman